The future of ambulance service in Seneca County

"We are better when we work together"



## What are we going to do?

- Move to a full-time, paid ambulance service for anyone in Seneca Co. not already covered by an EMS agency.
- Take a system of volunteers that is supplemented by paid staff and flip the arrangement. We will not get rid of volunteers for as long as they are willing to help.
- Ensure everyone in our service area receives highquality, prehospital care in 10 minutes or less.

## Why are we doing this?

- Volunteerism is in decline, and if the trend holds, we don't know how much longer the current system can hold up. We want to be proactive.
- Out-of-service numbers are increasing. We are getting the job done today, but it is not sustainable.
- State and federal laws/regulations are making it more difficult on the current system (Ohio HB 444, higher training requirements, etc.)

## **How** are we going to do it?

- Better leverage existing funds and use them more efficiently.
- Get ourselves on a path to a single joint ambulance district.
- Constantly re-evaluate our options to find the best path. We must make changes to create a sustainable system.

## Who is going to be involved?

- Our strategy changes based on who wants to be part of the system, but operationally, we can adapt to any possible situation.
- We are not required to provide this service, but we think it is vital and will do our best alongside those who wish to partner with us.
- We are better when we work together.

## **Initial Phase of Transition East Side**

- East side
- 1 station with 2 ambulances Geographic center in eastern Seneca County
- 1 squad staffed with FT ALS (Advanced Life Support) Crew 24/7/365
- 1 squad staffed with volunteer crew & part-time paid staff
- 1 back-up squad staffed by volunteers and call-in

# **Initial Phase of Transition West Side**

- West side
- 1 station with 2 ambulances Geographic center in western Seneca County
- 1 squad staffed with FT ALS Crew 24/7/365
- 1 squad staffed with volunteer crew & part-time paid staff

# **Initial Phase of Transition West Side**

- West side (continued)
- 1 volunteer squad in New Riegel staffed with volunteers and part-time paid personnel as needed to ensure 24/7/365 in-service status
- This squad may not need part-time paid personnel for several years, but in order to be sustainable long-term, it must be planned now.

#### **Retain Echo Paramedic**

- Countywide asset for ALS standard of care
- Leadership
- Training
- Supply/Inventory/Medications
- Eventual Role in Community Paramedicine, Mobile Integrated Healthcare (telehealth).

#### **Future in The Northern District**

- 1 FT Squad in north central area of Seneca County
- Geographic center in the northern half with access east & west
- ALS 24/7/365

#### What is it going to take?

- For a long time, we have all worked together to provide a service we can be proud of.
- We stand on the shoulders of the volunteers for their hard work, and that will not be forgotten.
- The county needs full financial commitments from the JADs and complete operational control to continue our partnership.
- In the future, the single joint ambulance district would need to contract with the county to fund the system.
- A JAD advisory board would regularly meet with EMS staff, but would have no direct authority over operations.